

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 3 is canceled.

**I. Response to Restriction**

In reply to the December 30, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-2, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1, 2 and 4 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Claim 4 is dependent from claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 4 should ultimately be rejoined with the application and allowed upon allowance of claims 1 and 2. For this further reason, Applicant submits that claim 4 should be examined with the elected claims, and the restriction should be withdrawn.

**II. Labeling of Claim Limitations**

Applicant would like to assist the Examiner in the examination process, but Applicant does not understand the Examiner's request for providing reference numerals to all the claimed limitations as well as support in the disclosure for better clarity. Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned below and/or provide more explanation in the next

Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the present specification, description of drawings, and the application as a whole, clearly explain the invention.

**III. Conclusion**

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 30, 2004

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